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### *Polygraphs for All*

We publish today a letter which makes the ultimate and absolute case for mechanical lie detection. It comes from the president of what we take to be a trade organization which rejoices in the sonorous and honorifical name of the American Academy of Polygraph Examiners. What rigorous discipline, prolonged study, occult knowledge and exalted standards are required for admittance to membership in the learned Academy, we do not pretend to know.

We find ourselves much taken, however, with the simplicity of the suggestion set forth by the president of the Academy that everyone in a position impinging upon national security should be subjected to a polygraph examination to discover whether at any time in his boyhood, youth or young manhood he fell victim to any irregular sexual urgings or committed indiscretions which, if brought to light, might make him vulnerable to blackmail. These polygraph examinations would have to be given, of course, to everyone in the White House, the Defense Department and the Department of State—from Secretaries down to secretaries, from the President down to the fellow who collects the confidential trash. They're all vulnerable.

What a field of research this opens up! What a career it offers to the graduates of the American Academy of Polygraph Examiners! What opportunities it places in their skilled hands! And all it entails, after all, is a total deprivation of privacy, a mere rending of that veil with which elementary decency has shrouded those private sins and shortcomings of which all men, being something less than angels, have always been, in some degree, guilty.